

MAR 14 1965

# Red Agent Puts FBI on Trail of 13 in N. Y. Area

EXCLUSIVE

By JAMES D. HORAN and DOM FRASCA

Journal-American Staff Writers

Soviet spy Robert Glenn Thompson, awaiting sentence after pleading guilty to espionage, has given the FBI "critically important information" about a Russian spy network in the New York and New Jersey area.

In a taped and extraordinarily candid interview, Thompson said he has put the FBI on the trail of at least 13 highly trained Soviet agents.

He described them as "white collar workers—both men and women," who have attained civic stature in their respective communities.

## HIS DISCLOSURES

His importance to the Soviets was exemplified by the type of assignments Thompson admittedly carried out. One of his jobs was to run "security checks" on Soviet agents in the Metropolitan Area to make sure they were remaining loyal to the Red cause.

Thompson disclosed:

- A New York lawyer is among the Soviet agents he has exposed to the FBI. Several others operate small retail businesses. Still others work in such

fields as education and engineering.

- All are part of a spy network that has infiltrated elementary schools, high schools, colleges and industries—"especially the chemical plants in New Jersey."

- Most of them are foreign-born, living here "under assumed, American sounding names."

- All were trained at Russian espionage schools.

## FACES SENTENCING

Thompson said without hesitation that he has cooperated with the FBI in a desperate bid for a light prison sentence.

He will be sentenced May 13. Meanwhile, he is free in \$15,000 bail—unusually low bail for a defendant in an espionage case.

Espionage carries a possible death penalty.

Thompson's lawyer, Sidney Siben, was present during the interview in the lawyer's Bay Shore, L.I., office.

Mr. Siben verified Thompson's statements.

It was Mr. Siben who said Thompson had given the FBI "critically important information."

The lawyer differed slightly with Thompson about why Thompson has cooperated with the FBI.

"Of course we're hoping for a light sentence," Mr. Siben said, "but he (Thompson) cooperated with the FBI because it was the only way he could make amends for the crime he has committed."

"In my opinion," Mr. Siben continued, "he was an American, is an American and will continue to be an American no matter what happens to him."

## EXPECTS ARRESTS

Assistant FBI Director John F. Malone was informed of the interview and asked about the extent of Thompson's cooperation.

"His case hasn't been disposed of," Mr. Malone said. "It would be premature to say anything at this time."

Thompson predicted:

"I think you'll find some important Soviet agents will be arrested if they don't flee the country first."

Thompson smoked two cigars during the 55-minute interview. Most of the time, the fingers of his right hand played nervously on his lawyer's desk.

## TELLS OF LONG QUIZ

He is red-complexioned; six feet, about 210 pounds. At the age of 30; his wavy, chestnut hair is beginning to turn gray. Wearing khaki pants and a matching corduroy jacket, he looked unimpressive—the plain, ordinary type.

He spoke slowly with a trace of Midwestern accent picked up in Detroit where he grew up.

Thompson, a veteran of the Air Force, was arrested Jan. 7. He said:

"Two FBI agents interrogated me approximately a year before I was arrested."

"I told them immediately I wanted to cooperate fully; that I was relieved to get this off my chest."

"I met with the FBI 22 or 23 times in various motels on Long Island."

"At the direction of the FBI I also met with Soviet agents in the Metropolitan Area."

"Most of these Soviet agents were the same persons I had checked out personally in 1962 to make sure they were remaining loyal to the Russian government."

"That was an assignment given to me by Kudashkin." (He referred to Fedor Kudashkin, a former third secretary to the Soviet Mission at the United Nations, who returned to Russia in 1963.)

## 'GOOD CITIZENS'

Thompson went on to say: "I ran security investigations on the persons Kudashkin wanted to know about."

"A few of them were sleepers—inactive Soviet agents who could be used for spy work when and if they were needed."

"I found out that all of the agents—active and inactive—were white collar workers who were considered good American citizens in the neighborhoods where they lived."

"They had influence in the schools and some of them held important jobs in industrial plants."

"As far as I could determine, they were all working for the Soviet cause in their own ways."

"I told Kudashkin I thought they had all remained loyal to the Russian government."

"Kudashkin was pleased to hear this and told me I could call on any of these agents anytime I felt it was necessary to establish contacts in any of their neighborhoods."

"Eventually, I gave the FBI all the information I had com-

plied about these agents for Kudashkin. The FBI then suggested I meet with some of them and I did that, too."

"I learned much more about the agents during the meetings. I found out that the Russian government was concentrating on industrial espionage at the time—especially the chemical plants in New Jersey."

"They wanted to know as much as possible about industrial techniques and patents."

"The schools—all of them right up to the colleges—were also important targets at the time."

"There's nothing the Russian government likes more than poisoning young minds; spreading the communist doctrine."

"The Soviet spy network is more heavily concentrated in New York and New Jersey than anywhere else in the world."

## UN CASHBOX

Thompson said all financing for espionage is funneled through the Russian delegation to the UN and the Amtorg Trading Corp., a Soviet commercial agency at 355 Lexington ave.

At one point, Thompson said: "As a matter of fact, I even told the FBI about a New York lawyer who is mixed up in espionage."

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